



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10407/640

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cole et al.
Serial No.: 09/904,061 Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn
Filed: July 12, 2001 Group Art Unit: 3714
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALLOWING
UNINTERRUPTED GAMING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the final Office Action of December 21, 2004, and is timely filed with a one month extension.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for lack of patentable utility. Claims 11-19, 22-25, 27-33, 35-44, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,461) in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Bell et al., and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104). Claims 20, 21, 26, 34, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333), and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104).

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Claims 1, 4, 11, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 36 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Claims 48-50 were previously deleted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully contend that the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the cited references.